

Remarks

Claims 1-9 remain pending in the above-referenced application.

Claims 1 and 4-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,787,367 to Berra. Applicants submit that Berra does not anticipate Berra because Berra does not show the limitation "storing information regarding a programing/reprograming operation in a separate memory area of the programmable memory device where only reading and programing are possible." According to the Examiner, this limitation is met by column 1, lines 52-55, of Berra, but Applicants disagree with this assessment. This portion of Berra states that "[w]ith a permanent ROM (PROM), the computer programs are typically hard-wired into the chip during manufacture of the chip, and the program cannot thereafter be changed." Applicants amended the claims to recite that a remaining portion of the programmable memory device is capable of being erased. As seen in the passage relied on by Berra, there is no portion in a PROM that is capable of being erased. Therefore, in view of this amendment to the claims, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

As for claims 2 and 3, Applicants submit that these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons given in support of the patentability of claims 1, 8, and 9.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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